

DATELINE #97 NEW YORK
PETER NELSON

JULY 14, 1976

WHAT'S IN A NAME?
(VOICED PIECE IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DATELINE: NEW YORK ...PICTURES IN SOUND, WORDS, AND MUSIC OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN AMERICA'S METROPOLIS. TODAY FROM PETER NELSON, ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION -- WHAT'S IN A NAME... NEW YORK STYLE?

VOICE: IF YOU'RE NEW TO NEW YORK, OR EVEN IF YOU'RE OLD TO NEW YORK SEARCHING FOR A COZY LATE-NIGHT PLACE TO GET A SNACK OR A DRINK MIGHT LEAVE YOU WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE BARS AND TAVERNS NEW YORK IS FAMOUS FOR. DON'T WORRY. THEY HAVEN'T DISAPPEARED. THEIR OWNERS HAVE SIMPLY BECOME MORE IMAGINATIVE AT NAMING THEM. OF COURSE, THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF OWNERS WHOSE VANITY GETS THE BEST OF THEM. SO YOU'LL STILL FIND "MICHAEL'S PUB" OR "MCSORLEY'S OLD ALE HOUSE" AND "BARNABUS REX." THAT LAST ONE SOUNDS DECEIVING BUT ITS OWNER BARNEY SIMPLY CROWNED HIMSELF BY USING THE LATIN WORD FOR KING.

BUT THEN THINGS GET MORE COMPLICATED "KITTY HAWK'S" IS A BAR, BUT DON'T EXPECT KITTY TO GREET YOU ON ENTERING. KITTY HAWK, NORTH CAROLINA WAS THE SITE OF THE FIRST POWERED AIRFLIGHT BY THE WRIGHT BROTHERS IN THE EARLY 1900'S AND THE BARS INTERIOR IS APPROPRIATELY FILLED WITH AERONAUTICAL MEMORABILIA. YOU MIGHT RUN INTO "BILLY MUNK" AT THE TAVERN OF THE SAME NAME ON MANHATTAN'S EASTSIDE, BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE BILLY MUNK IS ENGLISH COCKNEY RHYMING SLANG FOR DRUNK. AND "O'NEALS' BALOON" WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO IDENTIFY IF

VOICE: THERE WEREN'T A NEW YORK LAW PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORD
(CONT'D) "SALOON" FOR A TAVERN. SO THE O'NEALS' SUBSTITUTED THE LETTER 'B' FOR THE 'S' ON THE SIGNS WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE.

ANOTHER GOOD WAY TO FIND A BAR OR TAVERN IN NEW YORK IS NOT TO LOOK FOR ONE. "THE MUSIC ROOM" SOUNDS LIKE A NICE PLACE TO BUY OR HEAR RECORDS BUT IT'S ACTUALLY A RESTAURANT WHERE CLASSICAL MUSIC TAKES CENTER STAGE WHILE YOU EAT. "P.S. 77" IS THE NAME OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE BRONX, BUT IT IS ALSO ON 77TH STREET IN MANHATTAN. HOWEVER, THE ONLY STUDENTS AT THIS LOCATION ARE STUDENTS OF SOCIABLE DRINKING. "MA BELL'S" IS A POPULAR NAME FOR THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY IN NEW YORK, AND A FEW NEW YORKERS HAVE ACTUALLY GONE TO PAY THEIR PHONE BILLS AT THIS FASHIONABLE MID-TOWN EATING ESTABLISHMENT WHICH USES TELEPHONES AS A DECORATIVE MOTIF. AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO TO "THE LIBRARY." BUT IF YOU GO TO THE ONE ON NINETY-SECOND STREET AND BROADWAY YOU'LL FIND QUITE A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN YOU EXPECTED.

LUCKILY ALONG WITH DRINKS AND FOOD THERE'S ALSO A SELECTION

OF BOOKS./ MAYBE YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK THROUGH "DAVID

COPPERFIELD?" WELL, THAT'S A BAR ON THE EAST SIDE OF
MIDTOWN MANHATTAN. OR IF YOU LIKE THE IRISH AUTHOR JAMES
JOYCE, SOMEONE MIGHT RECOMMEND "FINNEGAN'S WAKE," -- OF
HIS BOOKS -- BUT IN NEW YORK IT'S A BAR ON FIRST AVENUE.

AND WHAT ARE YOU TO EXPECT FROM "MRS. J'S SACRED COW?"

WELL, THE OWNER SAYS THAT "SACRED COW" WAS THE NAME OF FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT'S PRIVATE PLANE -- AND SINCE THEY

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VOICE:
(CONT'D)

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SERVE STEAK AT THIS REFINED PUB, THE NAME MAKES SENSE... TO
THE OWNER. /

YOU ARE DRIVING ON COLUMBUS AVENUE AND PASS A PLACE CALLED "GHENGIS KHAN'S BICYCLE". YOU WOULD HAVE TO FIGURE THAT WHAT YOU HAVE JUST PASSED IS THE MOST SPECIALIZED STORE IN THE WORLD. BUT YOU KEEP DRIVING BECAUSE WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH GHENGIS KHAN'S BICYCLE... ACTUALLY YOU COULD EAT THERE. I WAS ASSURED BY THE OWNERS THAT "GHENGIS KHAN'S BICYCLE" IS A VERY FAMOUS TURKISH PLAY ABOUT A BOY AND HIS BICYCLE. SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THEIR TURKISH-AMERICAN ESTABLISHMENT BEARS THIS NAME.

IT WAS "ONE IF BY LAND -- TWO IF BY SEA," ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN POET HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW'S POEM, CELEBRATING THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE ON THE EVE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. ONE LIGHT WOULD MEAN THE BRITISH WERE COMING BY LAND. TWO LIGHTS MEANT THEY WERE COMING BY SEA, AND PAUL REVERE WAS TO RIDE THROUGH THE NIGHT WARNING AMERICAN PATRIOTS OF THE BRITISH ARRIVAL. THIS IS NOT A HISTORY LESSON. IT IS ONLY MEANT TO PREPARE YOU FOR A BAR WHICH IS ACTUALLY CALLED "ONE IF BY LAND, TWO IF BY SEA." IT WAS BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE CARRIAGE HOUSE AND STABLE OF AARON BURR, THOMAS JEFFERSON'S VICE PRESIDENT. THE SITE WAS BOUGHT ON THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-NINETY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF PAUL REVERE'S BIRTH.

AFTER ALL THESE COMPLICATED AND MYSTERIOUS NAMES, ONE IS THANKFUL FOR THE PRACTICAL OWNERS OF A BAR IN GREENWICH

VOICE: VILLAGE. THE PREVIOUS OWNERS HAD FAILED TO NAME THE
(CONT'D) BAR -- AND THE NEW OWNERS CELEBRATED THIS FAILURE BY
CONVENIENTLY NAMING IT -- "THE NO NAME BAR."

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FINALLY, AT THE END OF ALL THIS DRINKING AND EATING YOU
MIGHT NOT FEEL VERY WELL AND IF WORSE COMES TO WORST YOU
MIGHT EVEN END UP IN THE RECOVERY ROOM OF A HOSPITAL. BUT
IF YOU COULD STILL USE ONE MORE DRINK YOU COULD GET IT AT
"THE RECOVERY ROOM" ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE OF MANHATTAN.
THEN IT'S TIME TO HEAD FOR "HOME"... WHICH LUCKILY IS OPEN
TILL 4 AM ON SECOND AVENUE AND 91ST STREET. /

ANNCR: DATELINE, NEW YORK... A TOUR OF PUBS WITH STRANGE NAMES.
JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ----- FOR ANOTHER DATELINE, NEW YORK.

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